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GLACIOLOGY.

- (a) Observations on the pack ice.
- (b) Observations of the inland ice made on sledging journeys.
- (c) Observations on the coastal glaciers, tongues, and shelf-ice.

METEOROLOGY.

- (a) Two years' observations at Macquarie island by Ainsworth.
- (b) Two years' observations at Adelie Land by Madigan.
- (c) A year's observations at Queen Mary Land by Moyes.
- (d) Ship's observations on each of the voyages by Gray.
- (e) Observations on sledging journeys.

BACTERIOLOGY.

In Adelie Land Dr. McLean carried out many months of steady work.

TIDES.

Self-recording instruments were run at Macquarie island by Ainsworth, and at Adelie Land by Bage.

WIRELESS AND AURORAL OBSERVATIONS.

Very close watch was kept upon auroral phenomena with interesting results, especially in their relation to the permeability of the aether to wireless waves.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

(1) The successful navigation by the ship of the Antarctic pack ice in a fresh sphere of action, where the conditions were practically unknown. This resulted in the discovery of new lands and islands.

(2) Journeys have been made over the sea-ice and the continental plateau in regions never before sledged over. At the main base journeys aggregating 2400 miles were made, and at the western base journeys of 800 miles. These figures do not include depôt journeys, supporting parties, or relay work. The land has been followed through 33° of longitude, 27° of which were covered by sledging parties.

(3) The fixing of a fundamental meridian in Adelie Land, using wireless telegraphy.

(4) By soundings the continental slope, and in most cases the shelf itself, has been indicated through 55° of longitude.

(5) The mapping of Macquarie island.

The PRESIDENT (before the paper): We are here to-night to welcome the return to this country of the members of one of the most remarkable expeditions that has ever sailed into the Polar regions, an expedition remarkable for the scientific results which it has brought back, some of which Dr. Mawson will indicate to you in outline to-night, and still more remarkable for the extraordinary fortitude under the most difficult circumstances that man can conceive which was displayed by its members.

Before I say more of Dr. Mawson and his expedition I would venture a few remarks on the general problems of the Antarctic, remarks that seem appropriate at this moment when so many expeditions for the further exploration of that region are planned and brought before the Society and the public. If

you look at maps first of the North Pole and then of the South Pole, I think you must be struck by the strange difference. In the north we see large spaces of open sea, but if we turn to the south we find a continent filling the entire space within the Antarctic circle, and stretching out, shaped like a pear, with its thin end towards South America and the Andes. Well, even science, the highest science, is human, and looks for some objective, a tangible objective, and the scientific explorer naturally found that in the South Pole. This passion for the Pole has had one rather singular result—it has narrowed the field of exploration. Exploring parties naturally went to that bite in the pear, the Ross sea, whence there was the nearest access to the South Pole. We have, therefore, had four parties—Scott's two parties, Shackleton's party, and finally Amundsen's party—going over closely converging, if not identical routes. Now that spell of the Pole has been broken, and the area within the Antarctic circle lies as an open field to the future explorer. There are two ways in which it may be attacked. You may attempt to reach its centre from very different quarters. We have Sir Ernest Shackleton, who proposes to reach it from the opposite quarter from that which Scott did, from the Weddell sea. But there is another way of exploring the Antarctic continent, possibly a more arduous and certainly in some respects a more fruitful way, and that is to follow round the hypothetical outlines, for they are largely hypothetical, which we see in the map, and to survey its actual coasts. This was the task that Dr. Mawson and his comrades took up. Being Australians (when I say Australians, Dr. Mawson was born in Yorkshire, a sturdy county, but he was educated and has lived in Australia), they naturally were attracted to the land opposite them, and practically the expedition which Dr. Mawson will describe to us to-night began its work from a point near the Magnetic Pole which was about the farthest in that direction reached by Scott's comrades. From that point they have explored by sea or by land some 1400 miles of unknown coast. They have described many features unknown before, mighty glaciers streaming down from the highlands and floating out 40 miles to sea. But I am not going to anticipate the tale Dr. Mawson has to tell you—he will have plenty to occupy us with this evening. I will only add a few biographical details as to Dr. Mawson himself, and give the names of some of his colleagues. Dr. Mawson was a graduate in science in the Universities of Sydney and Adelaide (he is still on the staff of the University of Adelaide, which has given him extended leave in order to write his book). He was with Shackleton on his expedition, and he was one of those who climbed Mount Erebus, and subsequently went to the Magnetic Pole. On his return he planned this expedition. He went to the Federal Government of Australia, and to the various Governments of the Colonies, from which he received substantial help. He came to this country and got some aid from His Majesty's Government and from our own and kindred scientific societies. What he did with the money thus obtained he is going to tell us to-night.

All men of science will confirm what I say, that there has been no Antarctic expedition the results of which, geological, glaciological, or in the way of throwing light on the past history of our planet, have been richer than that of which we are going to hear an account. I am glad to say that, besides Dr. Mawson, we have here several of his colleagues. We have Captain Davis, the captain of his ship the *Aurora*; we have besides, Mr. Hodgeman, Mr. Gray, Dr. McLean, Mr. Bickerton, Mr. Wild, Mr. Madigan, and Mr. Blair. Unhappily Dr. Mawson has not been able to bring all his colleagues with him. We all deplore the death of Lieut. Ninnis and Dr. Mertz, under circumstances

the most tragical, and I am sure you will all sympathize with the father of Lieut. Ninnis, who is present with us to-night. I will now call on Dr. Mawson to deliver his lecture.

Sir ERNEST SHACKLETON (after the paper): In one word I move a vote of thanks to Dr. Mawson for his lecture. It was most interesting, and he has, I suppose one of the best set of pictures that ever came back. It was of great interest to me that Mawson and Davis, who for the first time went south on our last expedition, should have made one of the best expeditions ever carried out in the Antarctic. I just move a vote of thanks, and wish them all success in the future.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure you will all wish me to put that vote of thanks to the meeting, and that you will all respond to it most emphatically. We are told that geography has connections with every other science. We have seen in what an extraordinary way, with the aid of photography, it can throw light on zoology. One does not expect, when taken to the Antarctic Regions, to go there for the sake of seeing life; but I think to-night we have seen to the full the bird-life of the Antarctic brought before us in a most wonderfully vivid way. We owe our thanks, not only to Dr. Mawson, but to the very able photographer, or photographers, who have secured for us the pictures we have just seen. I should like to add that we wish to convey our congratulations, not only to Dr. Mawson and his comrades, but also to the Australian Commonwealth, the young nation which has sent forward an expedition which has been so successful and done so much for the progress of geography and of our knowledge of these remote and inhospitable regions.

THE LAND OF THE IBIBIOS, SOUTHERN NIGERIA.*

By P. AMAURY TALBOT.

THE Eket district lies on the Gulf of Guinea, and is roughly bounded on the west by the Kwa Ibo, and on the east by the Cross river. The geography of the region is exceedingly simple, as can be seen at once by a glance at the map. Its main features are the two great rivers above mentioned, which take their parallel course to the sea, receiving on the way all smaller affluents. Of the Kwa Ibo the chief tributaries are the Ubium and Awa; and of the Cross river the Uyaoron, Jamestown and Widenham rivers.

The land is low-lying, mostly only a few feet above sea-level, and, though undulating in the centre and north, even the highest parts rarely reach 200 feet.

Hardly a stone is to be found throughout the whole region, which has been built up almost entirely from alluvial deposits brought down by the rivers and held back by the mangrove. This, year after year, in growth or decay, ceaselessly gathers round its roots every atom of solid matter washed down by the waters, and thus gradually builds up the smiling land beyond its dark outposts. So rare are stones or rocks indeed in this part of the world that, wherever they appear, they are looked upon as something

* Royal Geographical Society, April 27, 1914. Map, p. 340.